

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 01300 141800Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-07 /051 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8736

S E C R E T PARIS 01300

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y G D S I N S T R U C T I O N S A D D E D

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: FR, MPOL, PINT
SUBJECT: FORTH OMING RESIGNATION OF FRENCH MINISTERIEL
DELEGATE FOR ARMAMENT.

1. MR. JEAN LAURENS DELPECH, DELEGUE MINISTERIEL POUR
L' ARMEMENT (DMA), FRENCH MOD, ASKED CHIEF OF ODC TO
LUNCH AND MEET WITH HIM ON 13 JANUARY IN HIS PRIVATE
APARTMENTS. ONLY MR. DELPECH AND CHIEF OF ODC WERE
PRESENT.

2. MR. DELPECH STATED HE WAS RESIGNING HIS POSITION AS
DELEGUE EFFECTIVE 1 MARCH 1977, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD
ACCEPTED HIS RESIGNATION, AND HE WISHED HIS AMERICAN
FRIENDS TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW OF HIS DECISION. HE
MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION:

A. INABILITY TO WORK IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE DECISIONS
WERE MADE PURELY ON POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY. HE
SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE GOF IS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH
THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS THAT EVERY DECISION DEPENDS ON
LENGTHY ANALYSIS OF IMAGINED VOTER REACTION. THE CHIEF
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OF ODC. WHO KNOWS THE DELEGUE WELL., SENSED MR. DELPECH'S
DEEP FRUSTRATION IN WORKING IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT.

B. THAT HE HAD SIGNED A 3-YEAR CONTRACT WITH GOF AS
DMA IN 1973 AND THAT HE SAW NO SENSE IN EXTENDING HIS
CONTRACT FOR JUST AN ADDITIONAL YEAR.

C. THE CERTAINTY OF CHANGES TO TAKE PLACE IN THE US UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, AND WITH THE IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF HIS US CONTACTS HE FELT IT ADVISABLE TO LEAVE HIS POSITION DURING THE SAME TIME FRAME. HIS SUCCESSOR AS DMA HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED, AND MR. DELPECH IS PUSHING HIS DEPUTY, INGENIEUR GENERAL MARTRE, FOR THE POSITION.

3. DURING THE LUNCHEON, MR. DELPECH REPEATED AGAIN AND AGAIN HOW MUCH HE APPRECIATED US ASSISTANCE TO FRANCE DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

4. GOF MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE MR. DELPECH'S RESIGNATION AT THIS TIME FOR FEAR OF IT BEING INTERPRETED AS BEING CONNECTED WITH ABOU DAOUD AFFAIR.

5. EMBASSY WILL KEEP STATE ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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